

German people know that Russia has suffered too much to have other ideas than the regaining of Russian prestige, to be signified perhaps, by the acquisition of Constantinople.

Therefore the British and French statesmen appear to be playing the diplomatic game well by giving Russia the deciding voice so far as rejecting peace suggestions are concerned. They can then plead the necessity for standing by their ally, according to their solemn pledge. And the rejection of the German and American proposals can thus be accomplished, it is said, without giving Germany the opportunity of making diplomatic capital out of the rejection.

Officials here noted today the distinctly unfavorable impression which President Wilson's note has made in Petrograd. The note is described as futile and creating an unfavorable impression by Paul N. Milukoff, leader of the constitutional Democrats, while the *Bourse Gazette* regards it as "most inopportune," and the *Novoe Vremya*, one of the most powerful Russian newspapers, hints that it was due to Germany's influence.

Discussion Plan Fails.

Coinciding with the announcement of the Russian attitude comes semi-official news from Berlin that the German government will not consider restoring Poland to Russia. In some quarters this is one of the reasons for the rejection of the peace suggestion. It is believed that the aim of the German proposal for peace may be an effort to sow dissension among the nations of the Entente. This is explained in the following manner: It is pointed out that since the war began, a particular effort was made to arouse animosity between Great Britain and Russia. Russia was pictured as owing her military reverses to the refusal of Great Britain to bear her allotted burden in the war, and the propaganda actually got far enough to make Russia feel anti-British feeling both in Petrograd and Paris. But this was dispelled, and the efforts to pry the Entente nations apart will fail because the Russian compact to stand or fall together.

It is pointed out in Entente circles here that it would be futile to hope for the building up of guarantees for future peace in Europe by the treaty embodying the guarantees were to be made possible only by the shattering of the iron-clad treaties now in force among the Entente nations. To consider peace proposals without the consent of all the Entente nations would reduce the treaties binding the Entente nations together to mere scraps of paper. It is not believed likely that any such contingency will arise.

RUSSIA ADVERSE.

Wilson's Proposal Amiable Rejected by the Press and Public.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 25.—Via London, Dec. 25.—President Wilson's note has called forth from the Russian press and from the nation itself a torrent of criticism, partly tolerant and partly sharply adverse, but for the most part maintaining a tone of polite antagonism. The Russian Government received the note in the spirit of friendliness in which it was offered, but will find it impossible to present to its own people terms which would lead to a durable peace.

All the newspapers comment on what is termed the inopportune moment for a peace step. The *Pravda* says that Wilson would better have been guided by the negative attitude which he observed in transmitting the offer.

"It is too early to give any counsel," says the *Rech*. "At such a time counsel can be more harmful than useful. He supposes both sides are following more or less the same objective. What can the people and Governments of the Allies reply after having definitely refused Germany's offer? They can only say that they think the offer has been refused simply on account of a lack of concrete terms and that if he fills this lack we can consider peace."

"There is no necessity to await terms which we know beforehand to be unacceptable. If President Wilson does not understand that no offer can be mutually acceptable to the Allies and their enemies we at least understand it."

Prominent members of the Duma and others who are following more or less the same objective, say that the Russian Government received the note in the spirit of friendliness in which it was offered, but will find it impossible to present to its own people terms which would lead to a durable peace.

"The lack of definite terms was the only obstacle to the Allies' consideration of Germany's proposal. We can guess what the Central Powers will offer, and if they offered much more than was expected, even then the time would not be ripe for mediation."

M. Rodzianko, President of the Duma, said: "My attitude toward the note is negative. It is not time for us or our Allies to conclude peace. There would not be peace for any length of time, and then the way would have been fought in vain. The reply to President Wilson's note must be the same as that to the proposal of the Central Powers. It must be a definite offer or a hint from the Allies that they would find American interference acceptable. Quite the opposite is the case. The Allies have definitely rejected Germany's proposals. In such a case it seems that President Wilson's offer of assistance is futile. The note can only make a negative impression."

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BIG BATTLE RAGES FOR DANUBE BRIDGE

Teutons Fight Desperately to Win Gate to Braila, on Rumanian Side.

RUSSIANS WIN FIGHT

Cut to Pieces German Force Storming Positions in Carpathians.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Taking no rest on Christmas Day, Von Mackensen's Teutons are fighting to drive the last Russian from the northwest corner of the Dobruja and capture the important bridgehead of Macin. On the whole Rumanian front, in the Carpathians and on the plains of Great Wallachia, fighting raged all day.

In the dismal, frozen swamps about Macin a stubborn struggle is taking place. The Teuton attacks are strong and incessant, and the Russian defense tenacious, for once Macin is in their hands, the Teutons can shell the important Rumanian town of Braila, across the Danube.

Braila, a railroad junction, is stocked with Rumanian oil and grain, rushed there to save it from the invasion that swept the Rumanians from Wallachia. It is one of the three main bases of the present defense line in the Carpathians, and German heavy guns could play havoc with the movements of troops and the work of organizing the new front.

Can Cross the Danube.

The most serious possibility is that the Teutons could cross the Danube once they took Macin. There is a bridge across the river at that point, but only a temporary bridge built by Russian engineers when Russian troops first began to pour into the Dobruja. It could be readily destroyed by a retreating army.

Along the Wallachian front to-day the Teutons, aided by heavy guns, made a series of fierce attacks. They captured a Russian position and finally had to abandon it because of the storm of German shells that swept their crest. Other heavy German attacks were beaten back.

In the ice and snow of the Carpathian forests both armies attacked. The Germans charged repeatedly to snatch back from the Russians the heights they captured yesterday on the Moldavian frontier. The Russians permitted the enemy to advance, and at almost point blank range poured into them a withering rifle and machine gun fire.

The Germans fell back, leaving heaps of dead in the snow. The Russians took 226 prisoners, and two guns and a trench mortar were captured.

Rumanians Are Attacked.

Another stubborn battle was fought in the mountains a little to the south, near the town of Macin. There the line is held by Rumanians. The Teutons attacked near the Kasno or Canul River, south of the Vrancea Mountains, a range of the Carpathians. The Rumanians gave ground at some points.

The official statements describing the fighting follow:

The German statement reads: "The German army of the Danube, near Cimbobrova, our patrols dominating the advance corner repulsed several Russian detachments."

North of Somozeu, in the Otus Valley, the German army repulsed the Russian attacks and pushed back the Rumanians, who took some prisoners."

Army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen, in Great Wallachia, new engagements, our troops captured Isakhtcha and is now attacking the bridgehead of Macin."

The Russian statement, covering the entire Rumanian front, follows:

Rumanian Front.—In the region of the Kasno River and in the Vrancea Mountains the enemy continued his attacks and pushed back the Rumanian troops in some places."

Front 11 A. M. The enemy violently bombarded our troops with light and heavy artillery on both sides of the Ruzs-Rimnik road and the region of Saharychoul and Balenichoul. The enemy's attack was particularly fierce north of the road, where he launched attacks and captured a height south of Pakovachoul. Our troops counter attacked and dislodged the enemy from this height, but our detachments soon abandoned it as the enemy was sweeping it with shells."

At the enemy's attacks in other regions of the left bank of the Danube, which were extremely fierce in the neighborhood of Brogu, were repelled by our fire."

Abandon Dobruja Towns.

In the Dobruja the left wing of our troops abandoned Isakhtcha and Tuitcha, which places were occupied by the enemy."

On the right flank an artillery duel took place throughout the whole day. It was especially violent in the region of the Danube heights of Grechoul and Western Front.—On the River Bystriza our scouts made successful reconnaissance in the region of Stray Linc, where the war had shown that the Rumanian army was struggling against the forces of four combined enemies in a manner justifying Rumanian looking to the future with absolute confidence. According to the despatch the King received an enthusiastic reception from the Senators and Deputies."

Parliament Meets at Jassy.

A Reuter's despatch from Jassy, dated December 22, says that the Rumanian Parliament was opened there on that day by King Ferdinand. The despatch says that the King, in a speech from the throne, said that the war had shown that Austria-Hungary in her present condition could no longer exist as a factor in the equilibrium of Europe. The King said that the Rumanian army struggled against the forces of four combined enemies in a manner justifying Rumanian looking to the future with absolute confidence. According to the despatch the King received an enthusiastic reception from the Senators and Deputies."

On the night of December 24-25 one of our air squadrons bombarded the enemy aviation ground at Vraignes as well as ammunition depots at Athies, Ennemain and Mons-en-Chaussee."

French Capture Trench.

The French statement, issued in the afternoon, is as follows:

On the night of December 24-25 one of our small ports northeast of Canny was repulsed by hand grenades."

In the region of Rove one of our detachments penetrated near the Amiens road a trench of the enemy, the occupants of which fled after suffering some losses."

On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the activity of the artillery was maintained at a rather lively rate in the region of Louvemont and Les Chamettes."

The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

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Dugouts Blown to Atoms by Hand Grenades When Occupants Refuse to Yield.

CHRISTMAS DAY QUIET

Only Intermittent Artillery Activity Is Reported on French Front.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—"The day was relatively calm along the whole front." Thus the French War Office reports to-night on the French army's third Christmas in the trenches. The German statement to-night says there were no important events.

On Christmas eve German infantry tried to destroy a small French post on the Avre but were beaten back by hand grenades. At the same time French raiders broke into a German trench near Rove, killing some of its occupants and putting the rest to flight.

Canadian troops carried out a successful raid on German trenches in broad daylight a few days ago. The official statement of the War Office this morning mentions it as on a scale unusually large in trench fighting. The Canadians were in the German trenches an hour and a half, doing much damage, and brought back fifty-eight prisoners.

More Than a Raid.

The raid was made north of Arras, but it is described in a despatch from a correspondent at the front as "much more than a raid." The despatch says 150 Germans were caught in dugouts, which were blown to atoms after the Germans refused to surrender. The despatch continues:

"The raid took place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on a front of 400 yards. German prisoners admit they were taken completely by surprise. An officer captured said he was convinced that something was about to happen but believed that the attack was coming on Christmas eve. He reported to the higher command that the Germans were in a state of panic."

"The Canadians, mostly stalwart men from the plains of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, had skillfully established themselves well forward, so that when the artillery had ceased the preparatory fire they were in the German front line trenches in less than two minutes. The officer in command, who was reporting the raid to brigade headquarters by telephone, said he had hardly uttered the words, 'They're off,' before he had to say 'They're in.'"

Germans Are Surprised.

"Consternation reigned among the Germans, who scrambled for the saps and dugouts leading to the rear trenches in order to save themselves. There the line held by the Canadians was broken, and the second and third lines for the Canadians pushed on quickly to the second trenches. About twenty dugouts were destroyed by the Canadians, several with bombs captured from the Germans. One of the officers engaged said:

"As we entered the trenches many of our men were killed. All who did were subsequently well cared for. Each of our men was given definite instructions for his precise task and a map of the enemy's trenches, which proved absolutely correct. Each man knew every detail of the proposed operation. They were delighted at this and the night of the attack, which was captured from the Germans. One of the officers engaged said:

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GERMANY LIKELY TO STATE TERMS

Wilson's Message Has Sympathetic Reception in Official Circles.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 25.—President Wilson's note has been subjected to continuous discussions and conferences by German diplomats and statesmen since its delivery. Foreign Secretary Zimmermann, who dined with the Kaiser at Potsdam last night, had an opportunity to learn the Emperor's opinion on the suggestions. In addition a lively interchange of views is proceeding between the capitals of the Central Powers.

It is evident that the recommendation is meeting with a sympathetic reception in official circles and that there is a good possibility that unless the proposal is blocked from the other side it may lead to the bringing out of a statement in some form of the Central Powers' ideas on future peace.

British Raid Bulgar Line.

Make Dash in Main Line Trenches on Dolan Front.

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The British attack upon the Bulgar front, which was described yesterday as a French official statement issued to-night as a successful raid, not as a major attack. The statement says:

On the Dolan front we successfully raided the enemy's main line trenches between Lant Dolan and Doldel, inflicting serious loss and destroying several gun emplacements. A British statement received to-day says:

On Saturday we raided an enemy position northwest of Serre on the Struna front. Our aircraft successfully bombarded Nantila station and an enemy transport column there. One enemy air plane was destroyed and a second brought down by our airplanes. Christmas Day was quiet in Macedonia, all reports agree.

Two British Destroyers Sunk.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—P. M.—The Admiralty announces that two destroyers were sunk in a collision in the North Sea on December 23 during very bad weather. Six officers and forty-nine men were lost.